



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CALTRANS BREAKS GROUND ON I-5 CARPOOL LANES

*Burbank* – Caltrans today broke ground on new bus/carpool lanes on the Golden State Freeway (I-5) between the Ventura Freeway (SR-134) and Magnolia Boulevard in Burbank. The \$57.8 million project is financed by Proposition C.

"This project will encourage commuters to carpool and use transit, which will help reduce traffic congestion, gasoline consumption, and improve the air quality in the San Fernando Valley," said Caltrans Director Cindy McKim. "The improvements we're implementing will benefit residents, commuters, and commercial vehicles by improving mobility along Interstate 5."

The project will build 5.4 miles (2.7 miles in each direction) of new bus/carpool lanes (also known as high occupancy vehicle, or HOV, lanes) and construct sound walls and retaining walls. The section of I-5 between SR-134 and Magnolia Boulevard has an average daily traffic volume of nearly 250,000 vehicles. The project is expected to be completed in late 2014. The contractor is Security Paving of Sun Valley, Calif.

"Metro is proud to partner with Caltrans on the construction of this HOV improvement project by contributing \$57.8 million through the use of local Prop C funds from sales tax," said Metro Board Chair and Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe. "Today's groundbreaking is a good example of local tax dollars helping to alleviate congestion, while putting people to work."

HOV lanes typically carry two to three times more people at peak traffic hours than regular lanes and reduce congestion in all lanes. There are currently 514 miles of HOV lanes in Los Angeles County, about 36 percent of all such lanes in the state.

This HOV project is one of numerous improvements in the works on I-5 between SR-134 and the Kern County line. In addition to this project, Caltrans is currently constructing HOV lanes between the Ronald Reagan Freeway (SR-118) and the Hollywood Freeway (SR-170) and between SR-170 and Buena Vista Street, building direct HOV connectors at the I-5/SR-14 and I-5/SR-170 interchanges, improving the Western Avenue interchange, and rehabilitating pavement.

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